

## **STATE YOUTH COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2006

### ***Members:***

Marie Christman, Utah Dept of Human Services  
Rickie Bryan, AFLCIO  
Becky Cox, Utah Dixie's Promise  
Tom Darais, Utah Dept of Human Services  
Melissa Freigang, Clearfield Job Corps Center  
Paul Jackson, Intermountain Health Care  
Paul Otto, Weber Basin Job Corps Center  
Rich Parks, Youth Force & Americorps  
Pamela Russell, Div of Child and Family Services

*Excused:* Cecil Robinson, Leslie Shortt

### ***DWS Staff:***

Ann Barnson	Julie Lay
Jane Broadhead	Brandon Sewell
Rod Barlow	Helen Thatcher
Bob Gilbert	

### ***Guests:***

Sheri Lundin, Futures Through Training  
Kay Forbush, UPS

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Marie Christman introduced herself as the new chair of the State Youth Council. She is deputy director for the Department of Human Services. There are two new members on the Council – Melissa Freigang, Business & Community Relations Director, Clearfield Job Corps Center and Richard Walker, Director of Housing, Department of Community and Culture.

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Marie said she would like to discuss what members would like addressed at these meetings, at a future meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The October 13, 2005 minutes were approved as submitted.

## **WIA YOUTH CONTRACT MONITORING**

Jane Broadhead reviewed the process for the new members. DOL requires annual monitoring of WIA youth programs. WIA youth services are either delivered by

contracted, or by DWS. Eighty-eight percent compliance statewide is required and applied to both contract and DWS providers. DWS uses the same monitoring process for both, although the fiscal monitoring for contractors is more rigorous. Twenty percent of active cases in a year are monitored – 10% at one time and 5% in 2 other quarters. Monitoring helps ensure appropriate expenditure of WIA funds. A contract is for a 5-year period, one year at a time, and monitoring results provide justification for extension. The monitoring team makes their recommendations in a monitoring report, and the Regional Youth Councils affirm or deny the recommendation. The recommendations then go to Regional Councils, the State Youth Council, and the State Council grants final ratification.

WIA youth contract monitoring:

- DWS monitored the Mountainland Consortium of Schools in August, but as their 5-year cycle is ending, approval to extend will not be requested; rather an RFP will be released.
- Futures Through Training was monitored in August and is in the process of resolving issues; the final results will be reported at a future meeting.
- The monitoring schedule for Salt Lake County YES program is March 2006.

Monitoring WIA youth services provided by DWS:

- DWS completed monitoring in the Bear River Council area, Logan and Brigham City. State staff delivered the monitoring report and the DWS Employment Centers are in the process of getting files into compliance. The SYC will discuss the final report in a future meeting.
- The schedule for monitoring the Western Region is February 2006.
- The schedule for monitoring the Eastern Region is March 2006.

## **REVIEW REPORTS**

### ***Budget***

Jane Broadhead reviewed the budget report. The chart shows the Training Dollars Issued to Regions, the UWORKS Obligations (represents the case management system money for youth), the Percent Obligated and the Percent Training Expended. The significant figure at the end of the program year, June 30, is Training Expended must be at 70%. DWS projection is for 35% of training funds expended by the end of December. The current regional breakdown follows:

- Central—19.66%
- Eastern—28.43%
- Mountainland—29.61%
- North—37.10%
- Western—12.38%
- Statewide total—26.15%

North is the only region meeting the current projection level. Regional Youth Council Chairs from all regions are encouraged to take this information back to their areas and encourage the providers to plan for a higher level of expenditure by the end of the program year.

Other significant budgetary items include the percentage of money spent on in and out-of-school youth. Utah requires a 50/50 split. The intent is to concentrate on serving the out-of-school youth population. The current percentages are 57.89% on out-of-school youth, and 42.11% on in-school youth. The out of school youth is one who graduated or got a GED, but is basic skill deficit (functioning below the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level in English reading or math, or English is not their primary language), unemployed, or underemployed. This group of youth is traditionally difficult to locate and engage in our services; the numbers reflect good outreach efforts on the part of the regions.

### ***Performance Outcomes***

Jane Broadhead discussed the Utah WIA Youth 1-B performance measures. DWS reports the performance outcomes quarterly to the Department of Labor, and annually to the US Congress. At the October meeting, we reviewed the annual report data and it looked very good. There are 17 measures that apply to the WIA program, nine of which apply to youth. At that time, Utah was meeting or exceeding 16 of those measures. Utah did not meet the Younger Youth Skill Attainment outcome at the planned level. However, we met the 'tolerance' level, which means we did not fail. (The tolerance level is between 80% and 100% of the planned level.)

A new reporting process (Common Outcome Measures) applies to our WIA programs and employment (Wagner Peyser) programs. The common measures for youth do not fully go into effect until 2006; however, some of the methodologies apply to our current program. The current report, handed out in today's meeting, appears to reflect significant difficulty meeting the outcomes. Regions pay close attention to the performance outcomes, and what appears as failure, is partly due to applying the common measures methodologies to the current performance outcome measures. Leslie Shortt can explain the changes to us at a future meeting. (We excuse Leslie from the meeting today. We have asked those who deliver services to keep an eye on a monthly report and to fix issues as they occur.

A Council member asked if DWS is currently reporting common measures to the Department of Labor. Jane said there is actually dual reporting. We report both the current nine measures and two of the three common measures for youth to DOL. A Council member asked if we would redeem ourselves by the end of the program year. Jane said that we hope another quarter of data will reflect improvement. There is always a rolling period of four quarters, so we are looking at a different group of people exiting the program. We are not sure how to project the effect of the different methodologies. She added that we retained the right to renegotiate the percentages.

A Council member asked for the reporting definitions. Jane will email the definitions.

Brandon asked if there is a possibility of a meeting before April with Leslie and supervisors to review how outcomes are calculated. Jane noted that Connie Laws and Rick Little have been meeting with DWS staff around the state about implications of common measures in other populations. Youth providers need to see these as well. She will follow thru with Brandon's recommendation for a meeting before April.

## **UNITED PARCEL SERVICE (UPS) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH**

UPS has worked with Applied Technology Colleges, and DWS to recruit for UPS jobs. Kay Forbush disseminated a brochure on UPS job opportunities and discussed the benefits of a job with UPS. There are about 900 part-time employees in SLC. The entry-level part-time positions are for loader and unloader jobs with set schedules and start at \$8.50/hour. Benefits include tuition incentives, full medical/dental benefits, and yearly pay increases. These are very good jobs for students who work twilight shifts as they attend post-secondary school, (and get tuition reimbursement).

UPS promotes from within. Employees get Driver jobs because of seniority, and the pay averages \$25 per hour. These are very competitive jobs as they offer good pay and benefits. Although Utah is a right to work state, employees work under the umbrella of the Teamsters Union contract. Applicants must be at least 17, and UPS looks at work history, criminal background, and expects a one-year commitment. There is a strict no rehire rule for leaving before the one-year commitment. The number one rule is to be on time for both the interview and the job. A Council member asked if there is special consideration for foster youth. Kay said if you want to refer a foster child, or former foster child, email her at [kforbush@ups.com](mailto:kforbush@ups.com) and she will help with the application process. She is also available to come to staff meetings, job fairs, and other council meetings to discuss UPS hiring.

## **TRANSITION TO ADULT LIVING REPORT**

Pam Russell disseminated the ETV consumer report. Enrollments in the Education Training Voucher program have increased almost every month. The totals on today's report include the previous enrollees. It does not reflect any outcomes. There are over 50 youth enrolled in some type of post-secondary training, (any program that provides a certificate or degree). The report reflects that males have more difficulty staying in school and their drop out rate is higher.

ETV funds are for youth in foster care and those who "aged out." Youth may apply for funds up to the age of 21, and may stay in school until their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. On average about 160 youth leave foster care every year. In response to a question regarding why the number of participants was rising, Pam noted these are new federal dollars and there has been a marketing campaign that has helped to get the word out. Reaching youth who have previously left care is more difficult. The goal is to get as many kids as we can in training. She said foster care youth are also encouraged to go to Job Corps, which is a different funding source. Paul asked if there has been improvement in support for transitioning. Pam said that the Transition to Adult Living initiative has definitely improved services for transitional youth.

Marie said the Department of Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services collects baseline data on former foster care youth beginning in 1999 and going forward. The data collected is a snapshot of where they are at given points in time regarding conditions such as criminal activity, having a drivers license, having a job, post-program

involvement with DFCS, child bearing and parenting, etc. The program is now in the process of the first full evaluation of showing baseline from 1999 to 2005, and their current statistical “snapshot.” For example, DCFS’s data indicates that in 1999 one youth was involved in the WIA youth; in 2005, there are 42. She will bring the finished report to the April meeting. There has been an increase in services available to adolescent foster care youth. Pam noted that DCFS is revising practice guidelines to require youth to participate in the TAL portion of their plan at age 14, down from the current age 16. She also noted that disability tab in the [www.justforyouth.utah.gov](http://www.justforyouth.utah.gov) website is being worked on, which was an action item from the last meeting.

## **NEWSLETTER**

Tom Darias said this committee has been in existence for three years with the charge to put the newsletter in place. The focus is now different and there is no further need for the committee.

**Motion:** Tom made the motion to disband the committee and shift to a team format that involves the State Youth Council at Large. Pam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom discussed the proposal to include articles written by youth about their experiences in the program. Julie would like to add to her list contacts who could elicit articles through youth councils. Job Corps offered to assist in contacting partners. Julie will include the request for a youth article in her next request for articles.

Julie noted that Mountainland Regional Director Melissa Finch suggested that the newsletter be a forum for capturing content on disability services for youth. Julie would like updates on this piece.

Pam recommended adding the [www.justforyouth.utah.gov](http://www.justforyouth.utah.gov) website at the bottom of each page of the newsletter.

## **WRAP UP**

As time was up, Regional Reports will be on the April 13 agenda. Youth in the judicial system will also be on the agenda.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The meeting opened for public comment. There was none.

Meeting adjourned.